“Regimes are dead. Long live regimes!”

So concluded former Lauterpacht Centre research fellow, Dr Margaret Young, at the end of a two-day conference on “Regime Interaction in International Law: Theoretical and Practical Challenges” in June 2009. The conference aimed to extend existing scholarship about the fragmentation of international law and the resolution of conflicting norms, as dealt with recently by the International Law Commission. The concept of “regimes” has been used by the ILC and others to define functional areas of law, decision-making procedures and institutions (such as the “trade regime” and the “human rights regime”). The conference focused on how, in the default situation of diversity and concurrent activities, regimes interact, and how international law shapes this interaction. The discussion included a lively debate about the very concept of “regimes”, which risks assuming uniform objectives within particular functional areas, and yet usefully demonstrates how law-makers and adjudicators take account of laws developed outside of their professional specialisation.

The conference was both an examination and an exercise of “regime interaction”. The 55 participants included members of international tribunals, legal staff of state delegations, advisors to NGOs, secretariat staff of international organisations and scholars and practitioners. Specialists in trade law, environmental law, investment law, humanitarian law, human rights law, domestic constitutional law and other areas contributed both professional expertise from within particular regimes and a critical and systemic awareness of international law. The speakers were Professor Georges Abi-Saab (formerly Appellate Body, World Trade Organisation), Professor James Crawford (University of Cambridge), Professor Jeff Dunoff (Temple University), James Flett (European Commission), Francoise Hampson (University of Essex), Dr Stephen Humphreys (International Council on Human Rights Policy), Professor David Kennedy (Harvard University), Professor Martti Koskenniemi (University of Helsinki), Dr Andrew Lang (London School of Economics), Dr Nele Matz-Lück (Max-Planck-Institute, Heidelberg), Professor Sol Picciotto (Lancaster University Law School), Professor Cheryl Saunders (University of Melbourne), Professor Joanne Scott (University College London), Eleanor Sharpston QC (European Court of Justice), Professor Gunther Teubner (University of Frankfurt/Main) and Dr Margaret Young (University of Melbourne).

The conference was sponsored by the Lauterpacht Centre and the Institute for International Law and the Humanities, Melbourne Law School, where Dr Young is now based as a Senior Lecturer. The proceedings will be published in 2010 as a further step towards greater awareness of the theoretical and practical challenges and opportunities of regime interaction in international law.

The Brandon Research Fellowship will cover a stay of at least eight weeks at the Lauterpacht Centre, the Fellowship will be awarded on an annual basis and be worth £3000. The Brandon Research Fellow will undertake a project on some aspect of public or private international law or international arbitration of their choosing. It is expected that the Brandon Research Fellow will contribute to the thriving research community at the Centre, together will the many other visiting fellows the Centre hosts each year from around the world.

Information on the 2010 Fellowship and how to apply will soon be available on the Centre’s website.
Hague Academy of International Law

As in previous years, the Cambridge-based International Law Fund offered five scholarships to UK-based students to attend the Summer Courses of the Academy. Dr Michael Waibel, who attended, writes:

The 2009 Public International Law Session of the Hague Academy of International Law took place from July 27 – August 14. Judge Bruno Simma of the International Court of Justice delivered the General Course, an impressive tour d’horizon of the impact of human rights on international law. Sean Anugbe, Ishaani Shrivastava, two recent LLM graduates from Downing, and Michael Waibel, a research fellow of the Centre, attended the Academy. Sean and Ishaani received support from the International Law Fund based at LCIL, which provides opportunities for students at UK universities to attend a session of the Academy.

Michael obtained the much-prized Diploma, one of only three awarded in the Public course.

The Secretary-General of the Academy, Professor Yves Daudet, is visiting Cambridge in November to give a Friday talk and to publicise the work of the Academy. See right-hand column for an outline of the term’s lecture programme; further information on individual lectures and other Centre events can be found on the Centre’s website.

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Michaelmas Term
Lecture Programme

The Centre has a bumper programme of lectures this Term as well as an extra session on the Hague Academy summer courses:

9 October
Dr Douglas Guilfoyle on Piracy off Somalia: from Military Solutions to Law Enforcement Cooperation

16 October
Mr Zachary Douglas on Stating the Law of Investment Arbitration: a Quixotic Enterprise?

23 October
Professor Sarah Joseph on Jurisdiction and Responsibility under International Human Rights Law

30 October
Professor Ilias Bantekas on Intergovernmental Trusts in International Law

6 November
Mr Rolf Einar Fife on Reviewing the Statute of the International Court: Prospects for the Review Conference

13 November
Professor Yves Daudet on The Special Tribunal for Lebanon

This lecture will be followed by an extra session for those interested in attending the Hague Academy in the Summer.

20 November
Dr Ben Saul on Is There Now a Public International Law of Terrorism?

27 November
Professor Surya Subedi on The UN Human Rights Mandate in Cambodia: the Challenges of a Country in Transition

4 December
Dr Arnulf Becker Lorca on “Peripheral” International Lawyers 1900-1950: Alvarez and Others

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News of Centre Visiting Fellows and Friends

New Edition of Professor Christoph Schreuer’s ICSID Convention: A Commentary

The second edition of this maximum opus - The ICSID Convention: A Commentary has just been published by Cambridge University Press with a foreword by Sir Elihu Lauterpacht. Christoph Schreuer, a strong supporter and friend of the Centre, has been joined by Loretta Malintoppi, August Reinisch and Anthony Sinclair as co-editors.

...and Other Recent Books of Note:

David Kinley, Civilising Globalisation. Human Rights and the Global Economy (CUP, 2009);

Douglas Guilfoyle, Shipping Interdiction and the Law of the Sea (CUP, 2009)

Zachary Douglas’ book The International Law of Investment Claims (Cambridge University Press, 2009) has also just been published and will be celebrated at the second Friday talk of Michaelmas term on 16 October.

Professor Fernanda Fernandez Jankov writes that her “book on International Criminal Law, result of my research at the Centre, has just been published and was recently launched in Curitiba, Brazil. This is the first book dealing with the topic of Universal Jurisdiction in the Portuguese language”.

If you have any Alumni or Centre-related news you would like others to hear about, please do send it to us by email to admin@lcil.cam.ac.uk